Central assistance for the construction of building of schools, colleges and hospitals in the tea plantation areas in Assam

2951. SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government are considering any scheme of capital grants for construction of school, college and hospital buildings in the tea plantation areas of Assam; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) and (b) Tea Board has introduced two new schemes for sanction of Capital Grants for (1) Construction of Schools/College buildings and (2) for construction of new health centres, extension of existing hospital/ medical centres and purchasing medical equipments and accessories etc., in tea plantation areas including Assam with effect from 17-1-87.

Survey to find out the causes of waste land increase

2952. SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted any survey regarding the causes of wasteland increase; and

(b) if so, whether any strategy has been adopted to combat this problem

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) Land degradation leading to formation of wastelands may be on account of various causes such as different types of water and wind erosion, land impoverishment dut to over grazing shifting cultivation, water logging, salinity etc. and the manner in which land is used.

(b) For combating the problem of soil erosion and land degradation and to increase prouctivity of degraded lands, the overall strategy adopted includes soil-water conservation, watershed management, land reclamation, afforestation including sand forestry, silvipasture development, desert development including shelter-belt plantations, sand-dune stabilization, etc., drought prone area development (including land development, land shaping etc.)

In 1985-86, the Wastelands Development Programme was launched with the principal aim of reclaming wastelands in the country through a massive programme of afforestation and three planting.

Under the National Forest Policy 1988 and the Forest (Conservation) Act 1980, the overriding emphasis is on protection and proper management of forests in the country.

Case of fraud against head clerk of state Bank of Indore, Delhi Branch

2953. SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY:
SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMRAO PATIL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some Members of Parliament had written letters jointly on the 28th March, 1989 and 13th April, 1989 demanding an inquiry into the fraud of rupees One Crore and about the dismissal of Head Clerk, State Bank of Indore, Delhi Branch;

(b) whether Government have instituted an inquiry into the matters; and

(c) if so, what is the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c) Government has received the letter dated 28th March, 1989 signed by

some Members of Parliament regarding dismissal of a Head Clerk of the Chandni Chowk Branch of State Bank of Indore, Delhi, because of his reported attempts to expose some frauds in the branch. The matter has been enquired into in consultation with State Bank of Indore which has reported that the Head Clerk in question was not dismissed for exposing any fraud but was deemed to have retired voluntarily from the service of the bank under provisions of the bi-partite settlement for his failure to join the branch to which he was transferred and because of his unauthorised absence from the place of his duty.

Exports of Aligarh locks and Moradabad brass wares

2954. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of Aligarh locks and Moradabadi brass wares exported during the last three years, year-wise alongwith the names of the countries to which exports were made;

(b) whether there has been any increase or decrease in the export of these items and if there has been any decrease what steps Government have taken to increase the export; and

(c) the amount of foreign exchange earned on this account during the period year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) to (c) The following are the figures of export of locks and padlocks, EPNS wares and artmetalware (which includes brass handicrafts) during the year 1986-87 to 1988-89:

(Rs. lakhs)

Item	1986-87	1987-88	1988-89
Locks & padlocks	58·18	50.00 (estimated)	50.00 (estimated)
EPNS wares & Artmetal ware	6033.10	6351.44 (estimated)	11242.12 (provisional)

Source : EEPC & Dev. Commissioner (Handicrafts).

Locks & padlocks have mainly been exported to USA, UK, USSR, S. Arabia, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Tanzania, Kuwait, Uganda, UAE, Zambia.

EPNS wares and Artmetalware have mainly been exported to France, USA, FRG, Austria Canada, UK, Italy; USSR; Neitherlands, Sweden, Australia, Japan, S. Arabia, Switzerland & West Germany.

1. Separate export figures for Aligarh Locks and Moradabadi brass wares are not available.

2. Figures in respect of 1987-88 and 1988-89 are estimated and are provisional.

3. As the export of these items are compiled on value basis, quantities exported are not indicated.

Powerlooms in the country

2955. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of powerlooms in the country as on 31st March; 1989 State-wise;

(b) what is the number of registered power looms in the country as on 31st March, 1989, State-wise; and